

## **2013 Annual Report**

### **Mendham Borough Environmental Commission**

The goal of the year 2013 was to deal with the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. The programs that were implemented focused on trees, such as the planting, the maintenance and the nurturing of our local woodlands.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION**

The commission continues to supply copies of publications of interest to residents that are available at the Phoenix House. The commission has also started a column in the *Mendham Messenger* called *The Green Corner*. This column supplies residents news of the ongoing work of the members of the commission as well as issues that affect environment around us. Also during the annual electronic recycling, members hand out printed materials that deal with hazardous waste.

#### **ELECTRONIC RECYCLING**

On May 11, the commission held its annual electronic recycling along with the shredder provided by the borough of Mendham. The environmental commission partnered with the Mendham Township Environmental Commission this past year. The total poundage of e-waste collected was 21,811. The total amount of donations was \$1,082.00 which was shared with the township commission.

#### **ANJEC**

During 2012, members attended the *Complete Streets* along with the Chesters. The information garnered from that seminar was useful in the grant application for a sidewalk along Hilltop Road. The commission worked with Mr. Geoff Price to gather the data needed to ensure the application would be granted. Important to the grant was the of the inclusion of the *Complete Streets* program.

#### **EARTH DAY / ARBOR DAY EVENTS**

This year, the commission focused on India Brook for clean-up. After Hurricane Sandy, debris was washed in and around the stream area. The commission partnered with the Raritan Headwaters Association. They provided snacks, T-shirts, informational hand -outs and most importantly a River Ambassador, who gave demonstrations to the local cub scout and girl scout troops.

Department of Public Works provided a front loader to haul out the debris. They handed out sandwiches, and T-shirts with Mendham Borough logo on the front. Tree plugs purchased from

the NJ DEP for planting were given out as well. Again, that was in response to Hurricane Sandy and the huge loss of trees in our area. The turnout was successful despite the weather being on the chilly side.

On April 25, Mr. Pat Donnelly gave a talk about tree care at the Garabrant Center. The information session was very detailed and educational. Unfortunately, we had a small audience of six people, three of whom were commission members.

During the afternoon on May 1st, twenty students arrived at the Cosma Natural Area to plant seven trees. The trees were purchased through a grant provided by the Somerset Hills Garden Club. The children enjoyed the outing and learned about land stewardship that afternoon. Again the Department of Public Works was helpful in providing muscle and machinery to assist the students in planting these trees. Again, tree plugs were distributed as well as Earth Day shirts provided by the DPW.

### **COSMA NATURAL AREA**

An ongoing project of the commission, is the maintenance, and the resurrection of the Cosma tract. The commission has been planting native species on the site which was once a corn field but now, overrun by, non-native species. The commission worked under the guidance of the Mendham Board of Education to rename and protect the site. In October, the property was renamed Cosma Natural Area. Signs were erected on both entrances to the site.

### **ASSISTANCE TO BOROUGH BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

#### **BOROUGH COUNCIL**

The Environmental Commission kept the council apprised of the planning and the results of Earth Day and Arbor Day events by presenting progress reports to the council.

#### **PLANNING BOARD**

The Environmental Commission has a liaison from the Planning Board who attends commission meetings regularly.

#### **OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE**

A member of the Commission serves on the Open Space Committee and insures that environmental aspects of potential open space acquisitions are fully considered. It also worked with Schiff and the Borough Engineer to keep in compliance with the DEP regulations.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

Peter Barry

Andy Carpenter

Paul Cascais – Liaison to Planning board

Laurie Felber - chairperson

Ray Kelsey

Wayne Le Blond – treasurer

Marian Mundy- Hooper - alternate  
Tony Perrone  
Adam Slutsky

### **Representation on Other Boards and Committees**

Adam Slutsky – Open Space Committee & Technical Review Committee  
Peter Barry – Open Space Committee